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5X1X 2. An excerpt from the letter received follows:

another official.

MASSIFICATION

Last Monday I was called in by an important French government official. ... Our conversation was almost entirely devoted to the consequences of the transfer of the governmental institutions to Mexico. He lamented that the Spanish Republican Government would take such a step in spite of the facilities which France had afforded it, and he expressed the fear that the transfer of the Institutions would weaken the influence of the republicans inside Spain, to the exclusive benefit of Communist propaganda. ... However, his chief concern was that France might be left with her southern frontier exposed to the infiltration of Communist propaganda without counterbalancing republican, liberal and democratic propaganda, with the result that Communism would attract to itself all popular opposition to the Franco regime. It is to the interest of France, as it is to our interest, to prevent this. Although my French friend did not mention it, another reason for the concern of the French government is that the latter has kept Spanish republicanism as a trump card to play if the opportune moment arrived - a card which it will lose with the transfer of our government to Mexico. Leaving aside forcign interests, which do not concern us, we must analyze the question from the point of view of our own interest. Which alternative interests us most: To cease to be a "card" and expose ourselves to the loss of the suggert which the power that planned to play it could lend us in the international sphere, or perhaps to continue to be a "card"

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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and to work in such a manner that we could be played only if we received the benefits which we considered due us? ...

The steps which the French government has just taken against the Spanish Communists who devoted themselves to espionage in the service of the Soviets are a new reason for our government not to go to America, for if it does I am afraid that there will be no way to make the Spaniards in Spain understand that the two events are unconnected, and if our people believe — as Franquist and Communist propaganda continually try to make them believe — that the government had to leave France for political reasons similar to those which determined the expulsion of the Communist spies, they will confuse republicanism deplorably with Communism, and in this event we can gain nothing and might lose all.

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correspondent indicated that in spite of objections to the transfer of the Republican Government, the decision apparently had been made and the transfer would be carried out.

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